



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 23, 2004

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**TREASURER ANGELIDES, DR. CORNEL WEST, JOIN WATSONVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AS PART OF STATEWIDE EFFORT
TO DEFEND CRITICAL UC AND CSU OUTREACH PROGRAMS
FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS**

*Governor Schwarzenegger's Budget Proposal Would Slash Funding for Outreach Programs,
Hike Tuition and Fees, Cut Higher Ed Enrollment and Reduce Financial Aid*

WATSONVILLE, CA – California State Treasurer Phil Angelides, joined by acclaimed Princeton University professor, scholar, and author Dr. Cornel West, met today with students at Watsonville High School to discuss the negative impact that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed budget cuts would have on their ability to attend California's public universities, colleges and community colleges. The visit by Angelides and West comes in the wake of the release of the Schwarzenegger Administration's recent budget that proposes to completely eliminate state support for University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) outreach programs that help prepare disadvantaged students for college.

"As Treasurer, I believe strongly that our economic strength in the future will be based in large part on the investments we make today in the education of our young people," Angelides said. "How well we train our future work force will determine how well California will be able to compete in the global economy of the 21st Century. I believe we need to burnish the crown jewel that is the State's higher education system, and not break it down into shards. Unfortunately, the Governor's budget would shatter California's historic commitment to its public colleges and universities. In addition, it would hobble our efforts to ensure that these great institutions reflect our State's diversity and offer opportunity to young people from all ethnic and economic backgrounds."

The Governor's Budget proposes more than \$700 million in funding cuts for the State's world-renowned public higher education system, along with steep tuition hikes, reduced enrollment and cuts in financial aid (see attached summary of proposed budget impacts). The Schwarzenegger administration already slashed funding for the outreach programs by 50% earlier this year; its recent budget proposal eliminates all state funding for these efforts.

At today's meeting, the Treasurer and Dr. West heard from students who would likely be affected by the Governor's budget cuts. Watsonville High School has approximately 3,200 students in its student body – more than 88 percent are Hispanic or Latino, and 50 percent speak English as a second language.

Watsonville High School Assistant Principal Tom Hiltz noted, “Watsonville High School serves an incredibly diverse group of students. Many graduate and go directly to 4-year colleges. Others struggle far below grade level during their entire tenure here. The outreach programs create and support dreams about successful college and career opportunities for so many of our students. Cutting programs like these would be devastating.”

UC outreach programs alone provide direct assistance – including advising, tutoring, academic enrichment, mentoring and standardized test preparation – to more than 110,000 California K-12 students and thousands of community college students statewide. These programs have a powerful impact on the ethnic and socioeconomic diversity of the State’s public universities. Watsonville High School credits a UC Santa Cruz outreach program with boosting by 79% the number of high school seniors who applied and were admitted to the UC system. UCSC estimates that the Governor’s proposed cuts would result in the loss of four full-time UCSC outreach counselors at Watsonville high schools and middle schools, cutbacks to its tutoring programs, and the elimination of funding for college campus visits, mentoring and test preparation programs.

“We are here today fighting for UC and CSU outreach programs because of the role they play in ensuring that our universities represent all of California, and the opportunity they offer to those who otherwise would not have access to higher education,” said Angelides. “We want to make sure that every student has the opportunity to gain the skills they will need to help ensure California’s economic strength in the years and decades ahead.”

Governor Schwarzenegger’s proposals will be especially devastating to students of color and financial need, who are already the least served by California’s education system. Outreach programs target students in the lowest-performing high schools and those from low-income families—students from groups historically underrepresented in higher education statewide. For example, 40 percent of Latino and African American students now at UC campuses benefited from outreach programs. In addition to eliminating funding for these programs, the Governor has proposed tuition hikes for undergraduates – 10 percent at UC and CSU, and 44% at California’s community colleges – and at the same time has proposed reducing financial aid to financially needy students.

Dr. West is a Professor of Religion and African American Studies at Princeton. He is a noted scholar, lecturer and author, and is particularly known for his contributions to the national dialogue on race issues, including his book *Race Matters*, and for his lifelong commitment to equality of opportunity.

The Treasurer’s visit to Watsonville High School today follows a two-day tour of the State’s public higher education campuses Tuesday and Wednesday, on which he promoted the critical importance of the public higher education system on the State’s economy at six campuses. Earlier today, Angelides and West visited McClymonds High School in Oakland, CA to discuss UC and CSU outreach programs there.

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IMPACTS OF GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER'S BUDGET ON CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed budget will have a dramatic, negative impact on the University of California, California State University, and California Community College systems. According to the non-partisan Legislative Analyst, the Governor's Budget "includes over \$700 million in reductions in higher education."

Here are some of the specific impacts of the Governor's budget proposal:

Cuts in Funding

- Reduces UC research funding by five percent (\$11.6 million)
- Eliminates General Fund support for the UC Digital California Project, which provides access for K-12 school districts to the Internet (\$14.3 million)
- Eliminates General Fund support for UC and CSU outreach programs (\$110 million)
- Increases student-to-faculty ratios by five percent (\$88.7 million)
- Makes unallocated funding reductions, which could lead to, among other things, a loss of course sections (\$98 million for UC and CSU over two years)

Higher Fees and Tuition

- Hikes undergraduate fees at UC and CSU by 10 percent (UC: from \$4,985 to 5,482; CSU: from \$2,046 to \$2,251)
- Hikes fees for graduate students at UC and CSU by 40 percent (UC: from \$5,219 to \$7,307; CSU: from \$2,256 to \$3,158)
- Hikes fees for Community College students by 44 percent (\$18 to \$26 per unit)

Reductions in Enrollment

- The budget proposes to reduce the enrollment at both UC and CSU. 8,200 students will be turned away at UC, and 13,800 will be turned away at CSU.

Cuts in Financial Aid

- The budget reduces eligibility for Cal Grants for middle-income families by reducing the family income threshold by 10 percent (For Cal Grant A, from \$67,000 to \$60,840 for a family of four).
- Reduces amount of UC and CSU fee revenue allocated to financial aid from one-third of fee revenues to 20 percent.
- Provides no increase in Cal Grant awards to reflect increase in fees at UC and CSU.